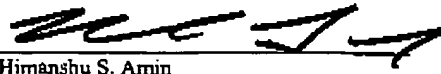


PATENT

MS164185.01/MSFTP215US

CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being faxed to 703-872-9306 on the date shown below to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.

Date: 2-23-05
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FEB 23 2005

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re patent application of:

Applicants: Eric J. Horvitz, *et al.*

Examiner: Thomas E. Shortledge

Serial No: 09/896,187

Art Unit: 2654

Filing Date: June 29, 2001

Title: SYSTEM AND METHODS FOR INFERRING INFORMATIONAL GOALS AND
PREFERRED LEVEL OF DETAIL OF ANSWERS

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

SUPPLEMENTAL PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

Entry of this preliminary amendment is respectfully requested prior to performing substantive examination of the above-identified patent application.